



Incentives for Participation

EPA offers incentives to Performance Track members to reward their top performance and to motivate other facilities to implement environmental improvements that will qualify them for meeting the Performance Track entry criteria. Because Performance Track participants have met the high performance entry criteria for the program, they are eligible for streamlined environmental reporting and administrative benefits.

As Performance Track members, facilities can take advantage of the program incentives that are currently available, including the following:

- Low priority for routine inspections.
- Use of the Performance Track logo at their facility and in facility communication and education materials.
- Listing on EPA Web sites and inclusion in feature articles and case studies that profile Performance Track members' accomplishments.
- Participation in Performance Track recognition events and peer exchanges, including special invitation conferences, workshops, and networks to share successful practices.
- Opportunities to be featured in EPA's upcoming Performance Practices Database.
- Information sessions with senior EPA officials to share lessons learned and provide input on the program.
- Direct access to the reduced reporting and monitoring available under the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) provisions of the Clean Water Act.

Performance Track Members can bypass the screening requirements in the 1996 burden reduction guidance because they duplicate the Performance Track entry criteria.

Also, as a discretionary factor in the assessment of any possible future compliance penalties, EPA will consider a facility's good faith participation in the program as an indication of its good faith efforts to comply.

EPA is working to continuously improve Performance Track incentives. Some incentives require EPA to modify guidance documents or administrative procedures. Also, most states have responsibility for implementing parts of environmental programs. In these cases, states may need to revise regulations, reissue permits, or take other actions to make incentives available to Performance Track facilities.

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EPA is in the process of developing the following Performance Track incentives through administrative actions or by issuing new guidance:

- EPA will recommend that states show greater flexibility under the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements of the Clean Air Act. In cases where a Performance Track facility is not able to begin construction within 18 months of its BACT determination, EPA would encourage the state to extend the applicability period by conducting a simplified control technology review.
- EPA will encourage states to provide better terms for Performance Track facilities seeking loans under the State Revolving Funds (SRF) program of the Clean Water Act. Performance Track facilities could receive reduced loan rates and extended payback terms.
- EPA intends to add participation in Performance Track to the list of factors used in granting expedited review of new, reduced-risk pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. All of the registrant's U.S. pesticides manufacturing facilities would have to be in the Performance Track to qualify for this incentive.

EPA will propose changes in environmental regulations that will:

- Reduce the frequency of reports required under the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) provisions of the Clean Air Act. Performance Track facilities that achieve MACT or better emission levels through pollution prevention methods could reduce reporting even further and
- streamline monitoring, reporting, and other procedural requirements for Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) in Performance Track. For example, Performance Track facilities would be able to publish notices of violations on the Internet rather than in paid newspaper notices.

EPA also is considering additional incentives, such as:

- Expedited review of Premanufacturing Notifications (PMNs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act, if the substance is manufactured at a Performance Track facility and the applicant uses EPA's Pollution Prevention Framework in preparing the PMN submission. This incentive would require rulemaking.
- The opportunity for Performance Track facilities to consolidate reporting under various environmental statutes into a single report. EPA expects that this consolidated reporting would be phased in with a pilot program, and potentially followed with a larger program. This incentive may require rulemaking.
- Allow Performance Track facilities to accumulate wastes for up to 180 days (double the current limit) before triggering the requirement for obtaining a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B storage permit.

Where do I go to learn more?

For further information on all aspects of the program, call the Performance Track Information Center toll-free at 1-888-339-PTRK, or visit www.epa.gov/performance-track. EPA will regularly update the Web site to reflect program developments.